

Message Text

SECRET

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17

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01

L-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 ACDA-05 OES-03 DLOS-03

PRS-01 /069 W

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R 140940Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9770

INFO CINCPAC HAWAII

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMIDEASTFOR BAHRAIN

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T TEHRAN 0346

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, PFOR, US, XO

SUBJ: EXERCISES WITH IRANIAN NAVY

REFS: (A) STATE 284229; (B) TEHRAN 22; (C) COMIDEASTFOR

111405Z JAN 75 (NOTAL; (D) JCS 262214Z OCT 73

1. REF (C) AND COMIDEASTFOR EMPLOYMENT SKED OF DECEMBER 1, 1974, DESCRIBE PROPOSED JOINT U.S./IRANIAN/BRITISH NAVAL EXERCISE TO BE STAGED IN STRAIT OF HORMOZ AND GULF OF OMAN, FEBRUARY 27 THROUGH MARCH 5. IIN IS LOOKING FORWARD TO PLANNING CONFERENCE FOR THIS EXERCISE, FEBRUARY 1-4. LAST YEAR SAME EXERCISE, CODE-NAMED ARYA, PRODUCED NO PUBLIC NOTICE.

2. THIS YEAR SITUATION IS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT. THERE IS WIDE-SPREAD CONCERN IN ARAB COUNTRIES AS RESULT OF PRESS DISTORTIONS OF SECRETARY'S REMARKS ON HYPOTHETICAL USE OF FORCE AGAINST OIL PRODUCERS. FURTHER, A JOINT EXERCISE WITH IIN IS

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ALSO BEING CONTEMPLATED FOR SHIPS FROM ENTERPRISE TASK GROUP

DURING NEXT THIRTY DAYS. (REFS A AND B). IF BOTH EXERCISES WERE APPROVED, WE COULD EXPERIENCE HOSTILE REACTION FROM ARAB SIDE OF GULF. SIGNIFICANT SHOW OF U.S. NAVAL FORCE IN THIS AREA COULD CONTRIBUTE TO RENEWED CHARGES OF U.S. THREATS AGAINST ARAB OIL PRODUCERS. ASSOCIATION OF IRANIAN NAVY WITH OUR SHIPS AT THIS TIME COULD SUBJECT GOI TO SIMILAR CRITICISMS AS U.S.-APPOINTED GENDARME OF PERSIAN GULF AND COULD WORK AGAINST POSSIBLE FUTURE IRANIAN-ARAB SECURITY COOPERATION. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO SOLICIT OPINIONS OF POSTS IN ARAB COUNTRIES RE DESIRABILITY FROM POLITICAL STANDPOINT OF U.S.- IRANIAN EXERCISES AT THIS TIME.

3. AS U.S.NAVAL OFFICERS ASSIGNED HERE CAN TESTIFY, LIMITED STAFF AND CAPABILITIES OF IIN WOULD BE OVERBURDENED BY TWO EXERCISES IN SHORT TIME SPAN. HOWEVER, IIN OFFICERS ARE DEFINITELY LOOKING FORWARD TO EXERCISE ARYA AND THEY COULD BE DISAPPOINTED AND PUZZLED BY U.S. WITHDRAWAL AT THIS STAGE. IF CHOICE WERE BETWEEN TWO EXERCISES, WE WOULD PICK ARYA AS BEING ANNUAL AFFAIR INVOLVING BRITISH NAVY AND THEREFORE LESS LIKELY TO ATTRACT ATTENTION.

4. WITH REGARD TO THESE AND FUTURE EXERCISES, WE REQUEST THAT REF (D) BE CAREFULLY FOLLOWED AND THAT COORDINATION WITH IRANIANS BE EFFECTED THROUGH THIS EMBASSY. MAXIMUM LEAD TIME SHOULD BE ALLOWED.

5. FOR COMIDEASTFOR: YOUR EMPLOYMENT SKED MENTIONS PLANNED VISIT OF LA SALLE TO BANDAR ABBAS MARCH 21-31. THIS IS PEAK IRANIAN VACATION PERIOD. FACILITIES IN SOUTHERN CITIES WILL BE PACKED AND MANY IRANIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL WILL BE ON LEAVE. SUGGEST VISIT BE RESCHEDULED TO END PRIOR MARCH 18 OR BEGIN AFTER APRIL 5TH END OF VACATION PERIOD.

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